



Minutes for the Travis County Commissioners Court October 8, 2024 Voting Session

Minutes Prepared by the Travis County Clerk
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Call to Order

Meeting called to order on October 8, 2024, in the Travis County Administration Building, Commissioners Courtroom, 700 Lavaca Street, 1st Floor, Austin, TX, Dyana Limon-Mercado County Clerk, was represented by Deputy Lola Ogunro.

Present: County Judge Andy Brown
Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion
Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea
Commissioner Precinct 3 Ann Howard
Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

Public Communication

Members of the Court heard from:

Robert Battaile, Travis County Resident
Shawn Snyder, Development Services Manager, Travis County Sheriffs' Office
Laura Seaton, Administrative Associate, Information Technology Services

County Announcements

Clerk's Note: There were no County Announcements.

Consent Motion

MOTION: Approve Consent Items 3, 5, 6, 7, 8.a-e, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.a-b, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, and 31.
RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**
MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez
SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion
AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Resolutions & Proclamations

1. Consider and take appropriate action to approve a proclamation recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Dell Medical School Family Medicine Residency Program at the University of Texas at Austin. (Commissioner Shea)

Members of the Court heard from:

Dana Sprute, Program Director, Family Medicine Residency, UT Dell Medical School

Victoria Shepard, Associate Program Director, Family Medicine Residency, UT Dell Medical School

Harsha Upadhyia, Chief Resident, Family Medicine Residency, UT Dell Medical School

Izzy Vargas, Program Coordinator, Family Medicine Residency, UT Dell Medical School

Kiran Shokar, Associate Dean, Community Affairs, UT Dell Medical School

MOTION: Approve Item 1.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

2. Consider and take appropriate action to approve a proclamation recognizing September 15 – October 15, 2024, as Hispanic Heritage Month in Travis County. (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

MOTION: Approve Item 2.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Auditor

3. Approve payment of claims by the County Treasurer. (Judge Brown)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Emergency Services

4. Consider and take appropriate action regarding the following:

- A. Outdoor burning in the unincorporated areas of Travis County

Members of the Court heard from:

Gary Howell, Travis County Fire Marshal

MOTION: Approve an order prohibiting outdoor burning until November 5, 2024.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

- B. County response to natural disaster or other emergencies (Judge Brown)

RESULT: **NO ACTION NECESSARY**

5. Consider and take appropriate action on a request to Extend FUSE Corps Agreement for additional year. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: **ADDED TO CONSENT**

6. Consider and take appropriate action to approve the purchase of food and refreshments for Emergency Services to host a lunch event for the Emergency Services District Commissioners, Chiefs, and the Travis County Commissioners. (Commissioners Shea & Howard)

RESULT: **ADDED TO CONSENT**

Health & Human Services

7. Consider and take appropriate action on a request to approve a Public Notice of Funding Opportunity Flyer for the 2024 CDBG Home Rehabilitation Program Re-Launch Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: **ADDED TO CONSENT**

Intergovernmental Relations

8. Consider and take appropriate action on the following grant programs, applications, contracts and related special budgets, letters of support, memorandum of understanding, and permissions to continue:

- A. Contract amendment for the UOCAVA Grant to Secure Electronic Ballot Transmission Grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to extend the grant period until June 14, 2025, with no additional funds provided and no cost to Travis County.
- B. Contract agreement for the Enhancing Investigation and Prosecution of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Initiative from the Office of Violence Against Women for \$500,000 in the District Attorney's Office.
- C. Contract agreement for the Smart Prosecution - Innovative Prosecution Solutions grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance for \$350,000 in the District Attorney's Office.
- D. Grant application for the 2023 Kitchen Equipment Assistance Grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture for \$185,881.25 in the Juvenile Probation Department.
- E. Permission to continue the Program Year 2023 Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Health and Human Services Department. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Innovative Justice & Planning Analysis

- 9. Consider and take appropriate action to approve the use of Fiscal Year 2025 general funds for the purchase of food, beverages, materials and other related costs associated with Innovative Justice & Program Analysis Reentry Resources programs, for second chance job fairs, hiring and educational events, and an annual partnership appreciation luncheon. The department requests the use of up to \$4,500 for future events throughout Fiscal Year 2025. (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

- 10. Consider and take appropriate action to approve an Interlocal Agreement Between Travis County and the City of Austin for Booking and Related Services at the Travis County Central Booking Facility and Criminal Justice Center for a term of October 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025. (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Planning & Budget

- 11. Authorize the County Treasurer to invest County funds. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

12. Consider and take appropriate action on budget amendments, transfers, and discussion items. (Commissioner Gómez)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
13. Consider and take appropriate action on the County's employer contribution rate of 17.65% of salaries to the Texas County and District Retirement System (TCDRS) for Plan Year 2025. (Commissioner Gómez)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Purchasing

14. Receive bids from County Purchasing Agent. (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
15. Approve Modification No. 6 to Contract No. 4400005754 with Vulcan Construction Materials, LLC, estimated requirements, for Trap Rock. (Transportation and Natural Resources) (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
16. Approve Modification No. 2 to Purchase Order No. 4100218488 with EMR Elevator Inc., a reduction in the amount of \$73,082.00, for TCJ Elevator Upgrade #5. (Facilities Management Department) (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
17. Approve Modification No. 6 to Contract No. 4400006400 with Robert Jackson & Michael McElhaney Architects, Inc., in the amount of \$81,804.00, for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Visitor Center Building Remodel and Landscape Design. (Facilities Management Department) (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
18. Approve Modification No. 2 to Contract No. 4400006361 with Negrete & Kolar Architects, LLP, in the amount of \$50,642.90, for the design of the East Metro Park Group Building. (Transportation & Natural Resources) (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
19. Approve Modification No. 1 to Contract No. 4400007350, with JNS Landscapes Inc., estimated requirements, for landscaping and grounds maintenance services. (Facilities Management Department) (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
20. Approve exemption and Contract No. 4400007793 with Harrison Psychological Services, PLLC, as needed, for Psychological Services. (District Courts) (Commissioner Travillion)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

21. Declare used equipment as surplus and authorize trade-in for the purchase of new equipment pursuant to Texas Local Government Code § 263.152(a)(2). (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Technology & Operations

22. Consider and take appropriate action on the following Personnel Amendments:

A. Routine Personnel Actions

B. Non-Routine Personnel Actions (Commissioners Travillion & Gómez)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Transportation & Natural Resources

23. Approve setting a public hearing on Tuesday, October 22, to receive comments concerning a temporary detour and restriction of all traffic on Springdale Road beginning on or about November 4, 2024, and continuing through November 8, 2024, or until work is complete, in Precinct One. (Commissioner Travillion)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

24. Consider and take appropriate action on the use of funds for the purchase of food and beverages for use at the Annual Transportation and Natural Resources Safety and Employee Recognition event. (Commissioners Travillion & Shea)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

Other

25. Approve the minutes for the September 24 and October 1st, 2024, Voting Session. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

26. Appoint the Travis County Risk Manager James Alvarez as mediation representative in Cause No. D-1-GN-24-0004440, *Julio Albino Jimenez vs. Travis County; In the 345th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas*. (Item may be taken into Executive Session under Texas Government Code, Sections 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney). (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

27. Consider and take appropriate action to approve a license agreement for the use of Peace Lutheran Church as an Election Day polling site on the November 5, 2024, Joint General and Special Elections. (Judge Brown)

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

28. Consider and take appropriate action to approve the First Amendment to the Interlocal between Travis County and the City of Austin regarding the DWI Court program, to extend the term to September 30, 2025 and expand the scope of the Agreement and funds received by the City of Austin to support Travis County's Transformative Youth Justice Program and utilize funding to address gaps identified within Travis County's diversion programs. (Judge Brown)
RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY
29. Consider and take appropriate action on the appointment of Terri Hoover Mirka to the Travis County Historical Commission. (Commissioner Howard)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
30. Consider and take appropriate action on nomination(s) to the Travis Central Appraisal District Board of Directors. *This item may be taken into Executive Session under Texas Government Code §551.071(1) and/or §551.074(3) and/or §551.0745(7).* (Judge Brown)

Members of the Court heard from:

Julie Wheeler, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, Intergovernmental Relations Office

MOTION: Nominate James Valadez to the Travis Central Appraisal District Board of Directors for a term to begin on January 1st, 2025, and pledge the Commissioners' Court full voting entitlement of 920 votes.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: County Judge Andy Brown

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT

31. Consider and take appropriate action to approve an order modifying designation of early voting polling places and election day polling places for the November 5, 2024, Joint General and Special Elections. (Judge Brown)
RESULT: ADDED TO CONSENT
32. Receive comments regarding the issuance of an Outdoor Music Festival permit for the Seismic 7.0 Event 2024, to be held on November 15 - 17, 2024, at 8509 Burleson Rd., Austin, TX. 78719. (Judge Brown)

MOTION: Open the Public Hearing.
RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**
MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea
SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 3 Ann Howard
AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

Members of the Court heard from:

Gary Howell, Travis County Fire Marshal
Samir, Owner, Valero Gas Station
Brian Burke, Sr. Engineer, Public Works, Transportation and Natural Resources
Sage Allen, Organizer, Seismic Dance Event
Diane B., Travis County Resident

MOTION: Close the Public Hearing.
RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**
MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez
SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea
AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

33. Consider and take action regarding the issuance of an Outdoor Music Festival permit for the Seismic 7.0 Event 2024 to be held on November 15 - 17, 2024, at 8509 Burleson Rd., Austin, TX. 78719. (Judge Brown)

MOTION: Approve Item 33.
RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**
MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez
SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea
AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

34. Receive presentation of a 2024 County Best Practices Award from the Texas Association of Counties for Travis County Constable Precinct Five's "Men As Allies" Program. (Commissioner Shea)

Members of the Court heard from:

Alan Bristol, County Relations Officer, Texas Association for Counties
Carlos Lopez, Travis County Constable Precinct 5

RESULT: DISCUSSED

Executive Session

The Commissioners Court will consider the following items in Executive Session. The Commissioners Court may also consider any other matter posted on the agenda if there are issues that require consideration in Executive Session and the Commissioners Court announces that the item will be considered during Executive Session.

Note 1: Gov't Code Ann 551.071, Consultation with Attorney

Note 2: Gov't Code Ann 551.072, Real Property

Note 3: Gov't Code Ann 551.074, Personnel Matters

Note 4: Gov't Code Ann 551.076, Security

Note 5: Gov't Code Ann 551.087, Economic Development Negotiations

Note 6: Gov't Code Ann 551.089, IT Security

Note 7: Gov't Code Ann 551.0745, Deliberation by Commissioners Court about County Advisory Body

Note 8: Gov't Code Ann 551.089, security personnel/critical infrastructure

MOTION: Take any comments related to the Executive Session items for the October 8, 2024, voting session prior to discussions held in Executive Session.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: County Judge Andy Brown

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

35. Receive briefing and take appropriate action regarding Travis County security and information security issues.^{1,4 & 6} (Commissioner Travillion & Howard)

Judge Brown announced that Item 35 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney, Gov't. Code Ann. 551.076, Security, and Gov't Code Ann 551.089, IT Security.

RESULT: NO ACTION NECESSARY

36. Receive legal briefing and take appropriate action regarding a settlement offer in *Travis County, Texas, vs. Surangi L. Widyaratne, Et Vir. & Nation Star Mortgage, LLC*; Cause No.C-1-CV-23-002176.^{1&2} (Commissioner Gomez)

Judge Brown announced that Item 36 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney and Gov't. Code Ann. 551.072, Real Property.

MOTION: Move that the County Attorney take the necessary actions to take a counteroffer and, if it is accepted, finalize the settlement as discussed in executive session.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 4 Margaret Gómez

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

37. Consider and take appropriate action to select applicants for final interviews for the position of County Executive, Innovative Justice & Program Analysis; and consider and take appropriate action to approve recommended questions to be asked of applicants during the final interviews.^{1&3} (Judge Brown & Commissioner Gómez)

Judge Brown announced that Item 37 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney and Gov't. Code Ann. 551.074, Personnel Matters.

MOTION: Direct staff to schedule interviews with the selected candidates as discussed in executive session.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 3 Ann Howard

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

38. Consider and take appropriate action regarding the submission of public comments for the proposed Chapter 56 in Title 1 of the Texas Administrative Code, relating to reporting requirements for District Attorneys and County Attorneys presiding in a district or county with a population of 500,000 or more persons.¹ (Judge Brown)

Judge Brown announced that Item 38 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

MOTION: Approve draft comments for final submission as discussed in executive session.

RESULT: **APPROVED - UNANIMOUS**

MOVER: Commissioner Precinct 1 Jeffrey Travillion

SECONDER: Commissioner Precinct 2 Brigid Shea

AYES: Andy Brown, Jeffrey Travillion, Brigid Shea, Ann Howard, Margaret Gómez

39. Receive legal briefing regarding County's authority, rights and obligations related to Central Health, a healthcare district, including counsel to advise on related legal issues.¹ (Commissioner Shea)

Judge Brown announced that Item 39 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

40. Receive legal briefing and take appropriate action regarding Cause no. D-1-GN-24-007778; In the 455th Judicial District Court, Travis County, Texas; *Ken Paxton, Attorney General, et al. v. Travis County Commissioners Court, et al.*¹ (Judge Brown)

Judge Brown announced that Item 40 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

41. Receive legal briefing and take appropriate action on the Travis County Commissioner's Court Order of October 17, 2017, regarding Central Health accounting and financial policies.¹ (Judge Brown)

Judge Brown announced that Item 41 would be considered in Executive Session pursuant to Gov't. Code Ann. 551.071, Consultation with Attorney.

RESULT: DISCUSSED

Adjourn

Minutes Approved by the Commissioners Court

Date of Approval

Andy Brown, County Judge